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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

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Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy to provide more safety training opportunities to Virginia miners

Big Stone Gap — The Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) is working with mineral and coal miners across the Commonwealth to better prepare them for the jobs they must perform, and to provide them with the proper knowledge to avoid accidents and injuries.

These health and safety efforts are being supported by a \$268,849 grant from the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration, which will be used for more effective and quality training for the 7,500 miners the agency serves across the state.

“Safety is number one at DMME.” said Mine Division Chief Randy Moore. “Making sure these miners come home every day requires training and this money will help us reach more people and in mediums we haven’t used before.”

DMME plans to provide easier access to training materials. Programs are being developed that can be accessed online. And, a mobile training unit will be purchased for mine safety training.

Mineral Mining Director, Phil Skorupa, said “The grant is most beneficial and will be used by our division to make readily accessible safety training designed to improve the skills and knowledge of the workers. Whether it’s a large mine or a small mine; or there are three or 300 employees, everyone deserves the same caliber of training. Our commitment is to the safety of the individual worker throughout Virginia.”

DMME has offices in Big Stone Gap, Lebanon, Charlottesville and Richmond.

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